

HOUSE BILL 949

By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7,  
Chapter 59, relative to cable television services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Cable Equity Act of 2007".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 59, is amended by adding Sections 3 through 5 of this act as a new part 3 thereto.

SECTION 3. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Basic service" means the lowest level of cable service available to a subscriber. Basic service shall include all over-the-air television broadcast signals carried pursuant to the must-carry requirements of any federal law regulating cable television services, and any public, educational, or government access channels required by the cable system's franchise agreement;

(2) "Cable programming service" means all program channels on the cable system that are not included in basic service, but are not separately offered as per-channel or per-program services; and

(3) "Per-channel or per-program service" means those cable services that are provided as single-channel tiers by the cable operator, and individual programs for which the cable operator charges a separate rate.

SECTION 4. Each television cable operator shall provide each customer of its cable television services the opportunity to purchase any channel on cable programming service on a per-channel rate. No customer of cable television services shall be charged for any channel on

cable programming service that such customer does not wish to view unless such customer chooses to purchase cable programming services as a package or tier of services.

SECTION 5. Nothing in this act shall be construed to violate any existing agreement or contract in any franchise agreement with any county or municipality pursuant to Section 7-59-102. As any such agreements or contracts expire they shall be subject to the provisions of this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.